

TWELFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

BY
GEO. K. GLUYAS, ESQ.,

RETIRING PRESIDENT,

DELIVERED AT THEIR ROOMS, MARCH 5, 1868.

SAN FRANCISCO:
EDWARD BOSQUI & CO., PRINTERS, 517 CLAY STREET
1868.

TWELFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

BY

GEO. K. GLUYAS, ESQ.,

RETIRING PRESIDENT,

DELIVERED AT THEIR ROOMS, MARCH 5, 1868.

SAN FRANCISCO:

EDWARD BOSQUI & CO., PRINTERS, 517 CLAY STREET

1868.

Mechanics' Institute of the City of San Francisco,

NO. 27 POST STREET.

Officers for 1867.

PRESIDENT,	G. K. GLUYAS
VICE-PRESIDENT,	A. C. AUSTIN
TREASURER,	THOS. YOUNG
RECORDING SECRETARY,	D. E. HAYES
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,	H. D. DUNN

Directors.

HIRAM ROSEKRANS,	C. H. HARRISON,
JOSEPH MCGILL,*	W. C. PEASE,
GEO. T. BOHEN,	JAMES SPIERS,
C. L. TILDEN,	D. R. COLEMAN.

LIBRARIAN,	J. B. PIERCE
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN,	ROBT. RIDDLE

* Resigned.

OFFICERS FOR 1868.

PRESIDENT, A. S. HALLIDIE
VICE-PRESIDENT, JOSEPH WILCOX
TREASURER, HENRY L. DAVIS
RECORDING SECRETARY, H. J. HOLMES
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, H. D. DUNN

Directors.

D. R. COLEMAN, ABNER DOBLE,
WM. C. PEASE, DAVID FARQUHARSON,
N. D. ARNOT, JACOB BROWNING,
JOHN HANCOCK.

LIBRARIAN, J. B. PIERCE
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, ROBERT RIDDLE

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Any person acceptable to the Board of Directors may become a stockholder by paying \$5 for the first and second installments on the capital stock, and \$1.50 quarterly dues, in advance. Any person may become a subscribing member, being acceptable to the Board of Directors, and paying an initiation fee of \$1.50 and \$1.50 quarterly dues, in advance.

Any person being otherwise qualified, may be elected a life member by paying the sum of fifty dollars, which shall entitle him to all the rights and privileges of membership with one share of stock, and an exemption from all dues or assessments during his life.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, PRESENTED AT A
MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE, HELD MARCH 5TH, 1868, AND
ORDERED PRINTED.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE—

Gentlemen: The Constitution of the Mechanics' Institute makes it the duty of the President "at the expiration of his term of office" to "make a written report of the general doings of the Institute, and suggest such means as may seem to him best calculated to promote its prosperity." In complying with this provision of our Constitution I take pleasure in presenting to you this

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

When the responsibility of conducting the affairs of the Institute was committed to its present officers, one year ago, this building was completed and occupied, the stores and rooms designed for rent were leased and in the occupancy of their tenants, and the organization was in a prosperous condition. Great credit is due to the able officers and committee under whose direction this property was purchased and this building erected; and to their wise and judicious management we are largely

indebted for that point of prosperity which our Institute has attained by the completion of their work. As their successors in honor and responsibility we have earnestly and faithfully endeavored, during the past year, so to discharge the duties of our office as that the Institute should not only maintain its high and honorable standing, but also make stable and sure progress towards the accomplishment of its great design, to aid in the advancement of the mechanical arts in every department; to make the Institute an ornament, an honor and a blessing to this city and State, and at the same time to promote the best interests of all its members. To this end your presiding officer has endeavored to discharge the trust confided to him without partiality or favor, that the best interests of the Institute should be promoted thereby.

Whilst we may and do actually differ honestly on many issues brought before us as an Institute, and whilst a rivalry may exert a beneficial influence to a certain extent, it ought at least to be conducted in a becoming manner, and with gentlemanly and kindly feelings, that the community may see that we are capable of self-government, and of conducting the Institute in a creditable manner.

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

One of the first objects of the Institute was the collection of a library, and the procuring of papers and periodicals for the intellectual recreation and improvement of the members and their families. This object we have kept in view during the past year, and have made such additions as our limited means would allow. Especial credit is due to W. J. Lewis, Esq., through whose exertions, aided by the voluntary contributions of a few members and a small appropriation from our funds, he was enabled to purchase for the Institute the valuable scientific library of the late Dr. Mathewson.

From the report of the Librarian we find that there have been added to the library during the past year *one thousand and six volumes* by purchase, and *one hundred and ninety-nine* by donation from public officers and friends, making an increase of *one thousand two hundred and five* volumes during the year.

Since the above Reports were submitted we have received a full set of the "Scientific American," a very valuable work of reference, and believed to be the only complete copy on the Pacific coast. To the personal exertions of A. T. Dewey, Esq., of the "Scientific Press," of this city, are we indebted for procuring this very valuable addition to our Library, and he should receive the thanks of the Institute for his labor in our behalf.

The library now contains about *eleven thousand two hundred and fifty volumes*. Many of these are of a high order of merit in science and general literature; and the whole together forms an exceedingly valuable collection for scientific research and general reading. Yet, in order that our library may fully meet the wants of the Institute, there ought to be an increase of works in the various branches of science and art, to be retained in the library as books of reference, to aid the mechanic in solving those problems which come up in his daily business; we trust that special attention will be given to this in future additions to the library. The number of papers and periodicals has also been increased, affording to the members the means of informing themselves in regard to the news of the day, and the progress made in the arts and sciences throughout the world.

To the editors of the following newspapers I would take this opportunity to return our sincere thanks for their liberality in supplying our Reading Room with a copy of their publication free of cost:

PAPERS DONATED.

SAN FRANCISCO.

Daily Alta California,	Weekly Hebrew,
“ Evening Bulletin,	“ Hebrew Observer,
“ Times,	“ Irish News,
“ Morning Call,	“ Le National,
“ Examiner,	“ Mining and Scientific Press,
“ German Demokrat,	“ News Letter,
“ Courier de San Francisco,	“ Occidental and Vanguard,
“ Dramatic Chronicle,	“ Pacific,
Weekly Banner of Progress,	“ Pacific Business College Re-
“ California Christian Advocate,	view,
“ California Farmer,	“ San Francis'o Stock Circular
“ California Police Gazette,	“ Spectator,
“ Commercial Herald and Market	“ Spirit of the Times,
Review,	
“ Elevator,	“ Sunday Mercury,
“ Golden Era,	Tri-weekly Guide.

INTERIOR, ETC.

Alameda Gazette	San Leandro, Alameda County, Cal.
Arizona Gazette	La Paz, Yuma County, Cal.
Calaveras Chronicle	Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras County, Cal.
Colusa Sun	Colusa, Colusa County, Cal.
Contra Costa Gazette	Pacheco, Contra Costa County, Cal.
Daily Bee	Sacramento, Sacramento County, Cal.
Guardian	San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, Cal.
Marysville Appeal	Marysville, Yuba County, Cal.
Mountain Messenger	Downieville, Sierra County, Cal.
Marin County Journal	San Rafael, Marin County, Cal.
Oakland Daily News	Oakland, Alameda County, Cal.
Petaluma Journal and Argus	Petaluma, Sonoma County, Cal.
Quincy Union	Plumas County, Cal.
San José Mercury	San José, Santa Clara County, Cal.
San Mateo Gazette	Redwood City, San Mateo County, Cal.
Semi-Weekly Enquirer	Dutch Flat, Placer County, Cal.
Solano Herald	Suisun, Solano County, Cal.
Stockton Independent	Stockton, San Joaquin County, Cal.
Wilmington Journal	Wilmington, Los Angeles County, Cal.
American Unionist	Salem, Marion County, Oregon.
Morning Oregonian	Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.
Oregon Herald	Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.
Idaho Semi-Weekly World	Idaho City, Boise County, Idaho.

BUILDING AND FINANCES.

At the commencement of our term of office there were two claims in dispute, one with the builder, J. J. Doyle, Esq., the other with the architect, W. Patton, Esq. Mr. Doyle's claim was for balance of account and extra work. Several interviews were had with this gentleman, and, through a special committee, aided by the original Building Committee, and under the advice of counsel, after mutual concessions had been made, a satisfactory settlement was effected by the payment of *eight thousand nine hundred dollars*.

The claim of the architect for a balance of *five hundred dollars* was carefully examined; and it was the opinion of the entire Board, and also of the former President and Building Committee, that a deduction, on account of a rear wall, of *two hundred and eighty dollars* ought to be made. Making this deduction we tendered him *two hundred and twenty dollars* as payment in full. This tender was declined, and the case remains as we found it. This is the only matter in controversy in regard to the property.

The financial condition of the Institute will appear from the following summary to the first of February:

ESTIMATED ASSETS.

Real estate	\$50,000
Buildings and improvements	50,000
Library	18,000
Furnishings	5,000
Total estimated value of property	\$123,000

LIABILITIES.

Union Insurance Co., two mortgages	\$50,000
Temporary loan to meet taxes and Kearny Street improvement	1,600
Interest on the same about five months	80
W. Patton's claim as architect	500
Total liabilities	\$52,180
Total value of property over liabilities	\$70,820

The receipts and disbursements for the past year, as per the Reports of Treasurer and Finance Committee, present the following exhibit :

Receipts from all sources	\$32,209 23
Disbursements	31,461 56
Leaving balance on hand, cash.....	<u>\$ 747 67</u>

For the various items of receipts and disbursements, of which the above are the sums total, I refer you to the report of the Finance Committee, previously presented.

It may be proper, however, to state that the chief items of expense in the above is made up of a balance due on the building, amounting to \$11,072.43, on furnishing \$4,943.51, and an old account of Appleton & Co., of New York, for books, of \$771, making in all \$16,786.94, not including the claim of Mr. Patton for \$500. This large indebtedness the Directors found on their hands when they came into office. To meet these demands the Institute authorized the second mortgage to the Union Insurance Co., which is included in the receipt above. The taxes and assessment for Kearny Street improvement have been met by a temporary loan of \$1,600 from the same company, they holding the tax receipt until paid by us.

To meet these claims, however, and provide for the interest on the mortgages, together with the current expenses of the Institute, some efficient means ought to be immediately adopted. During the past year the current expenses of the Institute were about equal to the income. For the year to come our income will probably be somewhat larger from increase of rent and membership, and our expenses will be somewhat larger from the increase of interest over what we had to pay during the first part of the last year. From a careful examination and estimate of our receipts and expenditures we may

set down our income at present and for the coming year, provided there is prompt and full payment of dues by the members, at about one thousand one hundred and fifty dollars per month ; and our expenses are just about the same, leaving no margin for replenishing the library, making needful improvements, or creating a sinking fund. We believe, however, by a little personal exertion on the part of every member to set forth to our fellow mechanics the benefits resulting from membership in the Institute, the number of members might be greatly increased, so that we should have not only sufficient to meet our current expenses, but could also make valuable additions to our library, and have a surplus to form a sinking fund toward meeting the mortgages on the property when they shall become due.

MEMBERSHIP.

The total membership at the commencement of our term of office (as near as can be ascertained) was 878 ; admitted to membership during the year, 468 ; present membership, 1,346.

This gain during the past year is exceedingly gratifying, and shows the increasing interest felt in the Institute by the mechanics of the city. But there are hundreds more in San Francisco who ought to be with us, and doubtless would be were they aware of the benefits arising from such membership.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

By a vote of the Institute, in the early part of our administration, it was resolved that the *Sixth Industrial Exhibition* of the *Mechanics' Institute of the City of San Francisco* should be held in August, 1868. An Executive Committee of twelve was appointed from the former officers and members, who by their experience were familiar with the arduous labors and duties necessary to

insure success, to act in concert with the officers of the Institute to make early preparations for such an Exhibition as would be a credit to the Institute, and an honor to our rapidly-growing city and State. Various committees have been formed, and preliminary steps have been taken toward its accomplishment. Application has been made for the use of Union Square, and the Board of Supervisors, with the assurance that a suitable structure would be erected, and appreciating the merits of the Institute, and the public benefits resulting from such an Exhibition, have generously granted it to us for the term of two years. Plans for a suitable building were solicited, and from nine submitted the one designed by P. J. O'Conner, Esq.,* was selected as being, on the whole, the best adapted to the purpose, and he has been employed as architect. A committee appointed for the purpose has visited Sacramento to seek from the Legislature the aid of the State to enable the Institute to give suitable premiums to meritorious exhibitions and inventions; there is scarcely anything that can have a more direct and important influence on the material wealth and prosperity of the State than the holding and fostering of such Industrial Exhibitions.

The Committee having the Industrial Exhibition in charge, will, in all its various departments, use all the economy that is practicable commensurate with what is designed to be the most extensive Exhibition ever held on the Pacific Coast. It is intended that all machinery that is exhibited for premiums shall be tested both practically and scientifically, and for that purpose instruments of accuracy and delicacy will be used, that all meritorious machines and inventions shall be awarded premiums on their own respective merits. The public

* The present Board of Directors deeming it inexpedient to adopt this plan, subsequently accepted a plan of Wm. Patton, Esq., after which the present structure has been built.

and exhibitors may be assured that these investigations will be of the most thorough character, and the premiums will be as liberal as the Institute can possibly give.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

I would respectfully suggest a change in the Constitution, in Article 9th, Section 1st, so as to make the annual meeting on the first Thursday in March. Then the report of the Directors will extend over their full term of office, instead of eleven months, as is now the case. The reason of this is evident. As it now is, a second report has to be made for that month, or it goes over to the new officers, who do not feel that they should be required to report on the work of their predecessors.

Permit me, before closing, to allude to one evil which I have observed, and which ought to be corrected. It is the small attendance of the members at our regular monthly meetings. Business of importance comes before the Institute which has to be acted upon when but few of the members are present, and then at the close of the year, those who ought to have been present at our monthly meetings come in and complain of what has been done. Such a course necessarily deranges all the business of the Institute, and prevents the adoption of any measures for its prosperity, since those present cannot be certain but that some months after the absent members may come in and annul what they have done.

From our present condition of prosperity it is pleasant to review the past history of the Institute. On the 11th of December, 1854, I had the honor of presiding at the first meeting called for the purpose of taking measures for the establishment of a Mechanics' Institute in this city. In March following we completed our organization and became a body corporate under the laws of California.

There were but few of us then, and the prospect

before us was not at all flattering, yet with steady perseverance and energy, characteristic of the mechanics of this coast, we met and overcame the almost innumerable obstacles in our way. We manifested the growing life and beneficent character of our Institute by collecting valuable books for a library as rapidly as our limited means would allow, procuring papers and periodicals for a reading room, aiding and encouraging manufactures and arts whereby the resources and wealth of the State are not only developed but retained at home, cheering our fellow craftsmen by extending to them the hand of fellowship, the heart of sympathy, and the moral aid which springs from membership in our Institute, and making our influence felt for good on every branch of mechanical, artistic, and agricultural industry in our city and State, to a far greater extent, we have no hesitation in saying, than was ever before done by any similar society in so short a time.

For the special purpose of encouraging art, agriculture, invention, and mechanical industry, in all its forms, we have held five Industrial Exhibitions, each one excelling its predecessor, showing the steady growth and prosperity of the Institute, and the increasing interest taken by the public in the legitimate industry of man whereby the true and permanent material well-being of the State can only be secured.

This year, as has been already stated, we propose to hold another, which we hope will not only exceed any we have before held, but fully equal, if not excel, anything of the kind that has ever before been exhibited in any of the older States.

Whether the high anticipations justly formed concerning the prosperity and progress of the Institute shall be realized or not, must depend mainly on the wise management of those you have chosen to succeed us in office.

Earnestly desiring for ourselves the best good of the

Institute, we leave it in their hands and yours to accomplish the results so essential to the best interests of all mechanics.

It only remains for me to return my most grateful acknowledgments to the members of the Board of Directors (and the members of the Executive Committee), for their efficient aid and counsel, and for their uniform kind feeling shown to me personally, and as your presiding officer. To these gentlemen the Institute is mainly indebted for the progress we have made, the prosperity we enjoy, and for the improvement in our affairs made during the past year. Where all have done so well it would be invidious to discriminate.

Also to the members generally I take the occasion to return my thanks for that courtesy they have shown me as their presiding officer.

Most respectfully yours,

GEO. K. GLUYAS,

Retiring President.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5, 1868.

Mr. A. M. WINN then offered the following Resolution, which was adopted *nem. con.*:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Institute are hereby tendered to Geo. K. Gluyas, for faithful and valuable service rendered during the past year, and that this resolution be printed at the end of his Report.

